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PRODUCTION OF FOOD AND INDUSTRIAL CROPS IN CHINA, 1952-1953

[Summary: China's agricultural success in 1952 was the result of improved seeds, effective insect control, new-type farm equipment, revised fertilizer use, irrigation, close planting, and crop rotation.]

Abundant wheat yields occurred throughout the nation in 1953. Reports of yields in several provinces of East China and the Central-South showed 10 percent increases over 1952. Increases in North China ranged from 15 to 30 percent over 1952.]

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN 1952 -- Hong Kong, Ching-chi Tao-pao, 27 Jan 53

Great agricultural achievements were attained in China in 1952. From a production viewpoint, 1952 grain output was 40 percent higher than 1949 production, and there was a 200-percent increase in cotton production. In other crops such as tea, tobacco, fresh fruits, etc., there were sufficient gains to enable the export of quantities of food (in 1952 food was exported to India and Ceylon).

Advances also have been made in the mutual aid cooperative movement. For example, the Sino-Soviet Friendship Collective Farm, with an area of 14,370 mou and four tractors, was established on 16 November 1952 in Shansi Province. The 1953 grain goal for this collective farm was 6 million catties.

The success of agriculture in 1952 can be attributed to the following:

1. Improved Seeds

According to the results of research and experimentation, the "Sheng-li No 100" potato seed had 84 percent better yields than local seeds. Yields per mou for Hsiao-hung-mang rice seed were 3 shih [one shih equals 103.5 liters], and improved corn seed yields were 900 catties per mou. Ordinary rice and corn seeds yielded one shih 3 tou [one tou equals 10.35 liters] and 450 catties per mou, respectively. "Ssu-tzu No 4" cotton seed, after 5 years of experimentation, proved to be 65.18 percent higher in yields than American cotton seeds. "Yen-fang" rice seeds yielded 996 catties of rice per mou. Investigations in all areas showed that improved grain seeds could increase production by more than 20 percent and that improved cotton seeds could raise yields by 30 percent.

2. Insect Control

In the past, insect damage to crops has been extensive. In 1950, leaf rust alone caused 20-30 percent reductions in national wheat harvests. Caterpillars have also caused much damage, and in periods of heavy infestation can cause a yearly loss of more than 10 billion catties of rice. However, insect-extermination activities have greatly progressed in the past 2 years and losses have been considerably reduced.

3. New-Type Farm Equipment

The reports of 6 experimental farms and over 60 mutual aid teams state that the use of new-type farm equipment has increased their production approximately 25 percent.

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4. Revised Fertilizer Use

Bean cake is the most widely used fertilizer. However, if bean cake were fed to hogs first and if the hog excreta, which is higher in nitrogen and oxygen content than bean cake, were then used as fertilizer, more benefits would be gained. The soil would become richer and, at the same time, pork production would increase.

5. Irrigation

The statistics of many areas show that yields from irrigated land are more than 100 percent higher than from nonirrigated land. For example, in Chieh Hsien, Shansi, a cooperative had an average yield of 456 catties of unginned cotton per mou from irrigated land, and only 237 catties from non-irrigated land.

6. Close Planting Technique

In Chao-yuan Hsien, Heilungkiang, it was found that yields were increased more than 100 percent by using the close planting technique. The Shuang-ch'iao State Farm increased its wheat yields by 122 catties per mou by using this technique.

7. Planting According to Soil Strength

Investigations in 12 villages in Hsin Hsien and Wu-t'ai Hsien, Shansi, showed that by rotating crops in accordance with the soil strength, yields were increased 17 percent.

The above facts prove that the potentialities of Chinese agriculture are very great. A comparison of high production records with average yields makes this fact even more apparent. For example, the record for wheat yields is over 1,300 catties per mou, and ordinary high-production fields yield 500-900 catties per mou, but the national average yield per mou is about 100 catties per mou. The highest paddy rice yields are 1,600 catties per mou, but the 1952 average yield of rice per mou was only 300 catties. In cotton, average yields per mou were about 90 catties and the highest yield was 912 catties per mou. -- Sun Chih-Chung

ABUNDANT HARVESTS THROUGHOUT NATION -- Hong Kong, Ching-chi Tao-pao, 9 Jun 53

In 1953, the wheat harvests of Fukien, Chekiang, and Szechwan have all increased more than 10 percent over 1952. There were also very good harvests in Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Yunnan. In the areas of central Kwangtung, yields averaged 100 catties per mou; other areas in the province averaged 80 catties per mou. Wheat yields in the Kuei-lin Special Administrative District, Kwangsi, averaged 100-120 catties per mou, with best yields over 150 catties per mou. Harvest results in the Chao-t'ung and Ch'u-ching Special Administrative Districts, Yunnan, were 10-30 percent higher than 1952 yields.

In Kiangsi, average yields were 100 catties per mou. The main wheat-producing areas of Hupeh, Wu-ch'ang, O-ch'eng, Mien-yang, Sung-tzu, etc., had 20-30 percent higher yields. On the more than one million mou of wheat fields of the Nan-cheng Special Administrative District, Shensi, yields of 180 catties per mou were obtained. Feng-hsiang and Ch'i-shan Hsiens of the Pao-chi Special Administrative District, Shensi, also averaged 180 catties per mou, a 15-percent increase over 1952. In the Wei-nan Special Administrative District, ten hsiens, including Hua, Hua-yin, and Pai-shui hsiens, all had average yields of 169 catties per mou, a 30-percent increase over 1952.

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Land reform has been completed and a new production attitude has been fostered. On this basis, farmers have been organized to increase production. More than 2,300,000,000 cubic meters of earthwork have been completed in the water-conservation program, insect-extermination activities have been developed, new techniques and skills have been introduced to the farmers, and technical demonstration stations have been established in the rural areas to assist them. In addition, more than 400,000 pieces of new-type farm equipment have been distributed throughout the nation, and in 1952 over 80 percent of the cultivated land was fertilized. All this has enabled the nation to exceed the production of the pre-Japanese-war period.

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